

MR SPEAKER No, No Mr Mohan Singh

SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR Mr Speaker, Sir It is a very important question pertaining to Maharashtra Therefore, please allow me

MR SPEAKER No, No The member whose name appears second can ask only one question Therefore please take your seat It is not permitted

SHRI MOHAN SINGH Mr Speaker Sir the hon Minister has said that only 31 per cent of the total sugarcane production in U P goes to sugar mills and our friend Shri Ram Nagra Mehra highlighted the miserable condition of the State's Sugar Mills I would like to know from the hon Minister the number of old mills identified in the last three to five years for modernisation expansion and enhancement of capacity (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER This question is a sequel to the Supplementary question not the main question

SHRI MOHAN SINGH It is related to the main question His question was about the sugar mills (*Interruptions*)

How sugarcane should be crushed (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER You haven't gone through the main question You are asking without understanding the question

[*English*]

The main question is about the payment and not about the expansion

SHRI TARUN GOGOI You give a separate notice for that

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI Has the Government assessed the degree of linkage of the

sugarcane production with the sugarcane price and accumulated arrears due to the farmers, if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Central Government to improve the sugarcane production keeping in view the overall area and prices?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI We have taken a lot of measures for the improvement of sugarcane area also As regards sugarcane arrears it is mainly because of the State advised prices the State advised prices are much higher than our statutory minimum prices

We can compel factories to pay only the statutory minimum prices and there is a provision also under Clause 3 of the Sugarcane Control Order where we can compel them to pay and in case they fail to pay the price within 14 days the factory has to pay 15 per cent interest per annum

Contraceptive Bills

*573 DR RAMESH CHAND TOMAR Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether some batches of the Mala N and Mala D contraceptive pills have been found to be discoloured or ineffective

(b) if so the details thereof

(c) the number of such cases reported during the last three years and till date and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D K THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

The Oral Contraceptive Pills (Mala N

and Mala-D) are, at present, formulated and tableted by M/s Eupharma Laboratories in the private sector and M/s Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., (IDPL), a Government of India Undertaking. The position regarding discoloured/ineffective batches is as follows:-

M/s Eupharma Laboratories

Twenty two batches of Mala-N were found discoloured during 1988-89. The entire available defective stock has been replaced and the cost of ingredients recovered.

M/s. I.D.P.L.

As regards Mala-D, one batch was found to be not of standard quality and one batch was found to be dis-coloured. The available defective stocks have been withdrawn and action is being taken to recover the cost of ingredients and obtain replacements as per standard practice. As regards Mala-N, two batches were found dis-coloured and similar action is being taken in this respect.

Besides, in 1990, the composition of low-dose Mala-D pill introduced under the Social Marketing Programme for the first time was considered to be sub-therapeutic and consequent change in composition of the pill necessitated withdrawal of 4 66 lakh cycles of this sub-therapeutic formulation.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: In reply to my question, the hon. Minister has stated that M/s Eupharma Laboratories which is in the private sector and M/s Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd, a Government of India undertaking produce the oral contraceptive pills Mala-N and Mala-D. Twenty two batches of Mala-N were found discoloured during 1988-89 and the entire defective stock was returned. I want to state that merely replacing defective stock is no solution to the problem. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the action taken against these

erring manufacturers? Have their licences been cancelled and whether any case has been filled against them, because the supply of defective batches of Mala-N is hampering our national programme.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIM.L. FOTEDAR): It has been rightly pointed out by the hon. Member that the stock was found defective and as such it was destroyed and the money incurred on it was recovered from them.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him finish what he wants to say.

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: It happened in 1989..... (*Interruptions*)..... as per my information no legal action was taken. However, today I have issued orders to take action under the law against them if no legal action has so far been taken.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question pertains to the wide publicity of oral contraceptive pills undertaken by All India Radio, Door-darshan and the colourful advertisements brought out by various magazines. Despite this the requisite results seem to be a distant dream. As per my information the objective of the Government was to sell Mala-D pills to the tune of Rs. 1.3 crores during the 1991. But it failed miserably. The prime reason as to why only 30 lakh pills were sold was due to the fact that consumption of Mala-N and Mala-D contraceptive pills adversely affected the health of women. The consumption of these pills cause dreadful diseases like heart attack, tumor, cancer, diseases of the abdomen and drying of milk in women's breast. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is taking steps to improve the quality of these pills so that women are saved from their ill effects.

MR. SPEAKER: This will be an anti-family planning publicity.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: That is why a professor is asking the question.

[Translation]

SHRI M.L.FOTEDAR: The hon. Minister has raised a question as to whether these pills have side effects which adversely effect the health of women. As per my knowledge these pills are not entirely free from side effects but diseases like cancer and heart ailments for other diseases on account of these pills have not come to my notice.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, through you I would like to know, (a) how many of these pills were administered which went wrong; and (b) whether any tender was called before it and whether a therapeutic examination was conducted before circulating them in the market channels.

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I am getting it in my legacy. It is not today's problem. It is a problem of 1990. I have to reply on behalf of the then Government of which you were not an active partner, but active supporter. (Interruptions) I will reply. Do not worry.

I agree with the hon. Member that the open tenders for this were not called for. Some of the companies here which were manufacturing them, were supplied the raw material steroids by the department and they were asked to do tableting. The question whether the tenders were called for such a thing or not came to my knowledge only yesterday. Originally the public sector company IDPL used to do it. Since the demand was high they thought it necessary that there should be another private company to manufacture the pills.

I have ordered that henceforth open tenders should be called and whichever is the best company in the country whoever

has offered to give at a cost effective rate, at a very low price but high quality should be given the order.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT: It is brought to the notice of our hon. Minister that those Mala-N and Mala-D contraceptive pills were sub-standard and it is found to be so. I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that it is so also of the other preventive measures being taken for Family Planning, that is, "use of condoms". According to the W.H.O. the condoms manufactured in India are of sub-standard quality. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether they have made any inquiry and whether they have taken action in this regard and whether they have discussed this with the people who are doing scientific research on the rubber used in the manufacture of such preventives here in our country.

SHRI M.L.FOTEDAR: The hon. Member's question pertains to contraceptives, it does not pertain to condoms. However, Shri Sunil Dutt is a very good social leader in propagating family planning and other programmes and I would like to reply to the question.

He has asked whether these are according to the W.H.O. standards. This was pointed out to us that WHO is revising the condom standard for Aids, and we have decided that all condoms whether manufactured in the country, or are imported should be according to the revised W.H.O. standard. Because, the condoms do not only help us in checking the growth of population but they also help in checking the spread of AIDS. For that purpose also they are required. I am fully aware of it and necessary instructions have been issued to improve quality.

Sports Hostels

*574. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: